

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 /086 W

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O 241451Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3276

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4176

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, IS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TWA FLIGHTS

REF: STATE 159852

1. I RAISED WITH FORMIN ALLON TWA ISSUE, MAKING APPROPRIATE POINTS ALONG LINES REFTEL AND REQUESTING GOI TO MAKE "CLARIFYING" STATEMENT TO PRESS.

2. ALLON WAS AWARE OF OUR DEMARCHE TO ISRAELIS IN WASHINGTON AND APPEARED WELL BRIEFED ON SUBJECT. HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A "MISUNDERSTANDING" ON TWO POINTS. FIRST, THE GOI HAD "REQUESTED" NOT RPT NOT "DEMANDED" THAT ALL FOREIGN AIRLINES RESUME FLYING, (HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT SWISS AIR HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO RESUME FLIGHTS). SECOND, THE DIRGEN OF MIN TRANSPORT DEALT WITH TWA REP FRANKFURT IN CONVEYING REQUEST DUE TO FRANKFURT'S POSITION AS "CHAIRMAN" OR "DEAN" OF REPS OF FOREIGN AIRLINES IN ISRAEL. THERE WAS NO RPT NO INTENTION TO SINGLE OUT TWA.

3. AS CONCERNS THE PRESS, ALLON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CRITICISM OF THE FOREIGN AIRLINES WAS NOT DIRECT, BUT
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IMPLIED FROM PRESS PRAISING OF EL AL'S DECISION TO

CONTINUE FLYING, INDEED INCREASE FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS, WHILE OTHER LINES STOPPED. HE THEN DESCRIBED ISRAELI CONCERN WITH "ISOLATION" AS MAJOR FACTOR IN GOVERNMENTSJS DECISION TO CONTINUE EL AL FLIGHTS AND THIS CONCERN ALSO REFLECTED IN PRESS TREATMENT OF SITUATION WHICH WAS NOT, HE CLAIMED, GOVERNMENT INSPIRED.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT WHAT WAS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY ISRAELIS, PRESS OR GOI WAS FACT THAT TWA SUSPENSION WAS REQUIRED BY FAA REGULATIONS: THE CARRIER DID NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE AND, HENCE, COULD NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE GOI REQUEST. I REMINDED HIM OF TWA'S ABORTIVE EFFORT TO GET PERMISSION FOR USE OF EGYPTIAN AIRSPACE. AFTER ALL, I NOTED, TWA COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW EL AL'S LEAD AND ASK FOR ESCORT SERVICE FROM THE IAF TO FLY ROUTES NOT APPROVED BY USG. ALLON DID NOT CONFORM INFO RE IAF ESCORT, BUT NEITHER DID HE DENY IT (EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY EL AL PILOT THAT FIGHTER ESCORTS WERE INDEED ACCOMPANYING EL AL FLIGHTS SOUTH). I NOTED THAT CIVIL AIR WAS NOT MY FIELD, BUT I THOUGHT THAT EL AL'S ROUTING WAS PROBABLY ILLEGAL AND, IN ANY EVENT, I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBT AS A LAWYER WHETHER THESE FLIGHTS WERE COVERED BY INSURANCE.

5. COMMENT: THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH ALLON EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT ALL AIRLINES WOULD BE FLYING SOON DUE TO IMPROVEMENT IN CYPRUS SITUATION. HE DID NOT RPT NOT LEAVE ME WITH IMPRESSION THAT GOI WOULD MAKE STATEMENT TO PRESS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, HE WILL TALK TO MINISTER OF TRANSPORT YAACOBI AS RESULT OUR DEMARCHES, HERE AND IN WASHINGTON. THIS SHOULD COOL THE ZEAL OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OFFICIALS WHO ARE DEALING WITH SUBJECT, AND INDIRECTLY HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON FUTURE PRESS PLAY.

6. WE ARE INFORMING LOCAL TWA REP OF MY CONVERSATION. KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS, AIR ROUTES, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, AVIATION REGULATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ETRN, IS, US, TWA, (ALLON, YIGAL)
To: STATE
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